BENGALURU, SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 32 | Min 22 | Humidity 61% Chance of Showers Sensex 73,961 | Nifty 22,530 | Gold 72,115 | Silver 94,168 | Dollar 83.40 | Euro 90.61 | GBP 106.16

STICKY PLASTIC

Years after ban on single-use plastic, hardly any change on the ground as all items still being used

PAGE 3

IN CUSTODY

Finally Prajwal Revanna, back in country, remanded to SIT custody: All you need to know

PAGE 7

BBMP puts up board restricting construction of tombs/samadhis at Kalpalli Burial Ground as space crunch increases

THE GROUND BENEATH OUR FEET IS SHRINKING

Citizens complain amenities lacking at burial ground

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Kalpalli Burial Ground is set to run out of space soon if the construction of samadhis and tombs is not restricted. In an indication that the 84-acre burial ground running out of space, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has put up a board stating that the construction of samadhis and tombs are banned at the burial ground.

Kalpalli Burial Ground was in news in May 2021 when the people working here refused to bury covid victims' bodies as there was no space for burial. Around 250 covid bodies were buried at the burial ground during the lockdown. Now, the BBMP has put up a board banning the construction of samadhis or tombs at the burial ground.

The burial ground received 1,866 bodies in 2021, 1,529 bodies in 2022, and 1,486 bodies in the year 2023. There is a facility for cremating dead bodies by conventional method as well as an electric crematorium.

"The burial ground is fast running out of space. We found it very tough during the lockdown.

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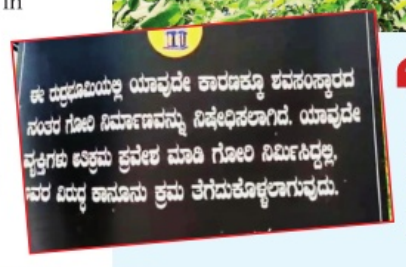


"A few people are bringing workers from outside to construct tombs and samadhis when we refuse to work for them. They are demanding that we produce the BBMP's order copy

— A Shauri Raj, BBMP Burial Ground Workers' Association

Signal error

MODERATO signal testing causing much confusion at junctions

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

If you thought traffic chaos cannot get worse than it is, get this even checking a new model can add to the confusion. The Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) has been ramping up testing of the Japan-model MODERATO signals, which has caused more congestion. Traffic cops are now demanding designated buttons to manually change the signals.

For the past four days, testing has been ongoing at Shoolay Circle, Mother Teresa Circle, Old PSO Circle, and D'Souza Circle. However, cops at the signals say that the system needs a lot of improvement and has been causing a lot of inconvenience.

"The signal system is not able to coordinate its changes and we have to manually change them. While we already have a manual changing system inside the kiosk, we have to use the one outside for this system. The switchboard also does not have designated switches for different signals. We have to fiddle with the switch until we get the right switch. Additionally, the variable timing of the signals based on the length

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Poetic evening

Explore 'Dastan Tilism-e-Hoshruba,' a classic Dastangoi performance, narrating one of the stories from the most extensive Urdu literature to exist: Tilism-e-Hoshruba, also known as Dastan-e-Ameer Hamza. The programme will be an entertaining mix of magic and fantasy narrated with some poetry and stories by Kafeel Jafri, a trained theatre artist, dastango/storyteller, and trainer. **Where: Atta Galatta; When: June 1, 7:30 pm**

02 KK tribute concert

Immerse yourself in a night of unforgettable melodies with "Sing for KK: Mega Tribute Concert" at Garuda Courtyard. Led by the sensational vocalists Aurko and AIR, this concert promises to be a journey through KK`s illustrious career, spanning soulful ballads, electrifying rock anthems, and everything in between. Join in and sing along to your favourite KK tracks, revel in the nostalgia, and feel the collective energy of fellow fans as we pay homage to one of India`s most beloved voices. **Where: Garuda Outdoor Courtyard; When: June 1, 6 pm**

03 Mango party

This Sunday, get a kilo of mangoes and head to JP Nagar as Ranga Shankara hosts the city's most-awaited open-to-all party, the 'Mango Party', where just one thing happens: eating mangoes! Bring, share, and enjoy the delicious fruit together with your friends and the community as you listen to a storytelling session with Ramya Srinidhi at 5:30 pm on all about the 'Mystery of the Missing Mango!' **Where: Ranga Shankara When: June 2, 2 to 5.30 pm**

Health hazard: State govt bans use of liquid nitrogen in food

From ice cream to cocktails, cut out liquid nitrogen to stay healthy; Up to ₹7 lakh fines & 7 years in prison for defaulters

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

File photo of a vendor making ice cream using liquid nitrogen at a food street in Bengaluru

The state government has banned the use of liquid nitrogen in food products, including ice cream, desserts, and other frozen foods, under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. With the initial order issued on May 3, the government is now reissuing the notification to alert the public. The prohibition extends to the use of liquid nitrogen for quick chilling of food products, such as stock biscuits, beer, and ice cream, due to its potential harm to human health. The government has taken this step to ensure public safety. If food manufacturers violate this order, they will face fines of up to Rs 10 lakh and prison sentences of up to 7 years.

It may be recalled that recently, a 12-year-old girl developed a 4x5 cm hole in her abdomen after consuming liquid nitrogen paan. Following a complex surgery, the infected part of her stomach was removed. Dr Priya Kumar, a paediatrician, said, "The ban on liquid nitrogen in food products is a necessary measure to protect public health. As a doctor, I have seen the devastating effects it can have on the human body. The incident with this young girl after consuming liquid nitrogen paan is a stark reminder of the dangers. This ban is a proactive step towards preventing such tragedies.

Positive public reaction

The recent ban on the use of liquid nitrogen in food products has sparked a wave of reactions from the public, with many expressing strong support for the government's decision. Rahul Sharma, a concerned parent, said, "I fully support the government's decision on this ban, as it is justified and reassures me that measures are being taken to safeguard our health. As a parent, the safety of my children is my top priority. Knowing that something as hazardous as liquid nitrogen is being used in ice creams and desserts is terrifying." Anjali Desai, a food safety advocate, considered the ban to be a significant victory for consumer safety. "Liquid nitrogen, while useful in certain industrial applications, has no place in our food. The risks far outweigh any novelty or temporary enjoyment it might provide. The government's decision reflects a commitment to public health and the well-being of its citizens," she added.

Health risks

Tamil Nadu has already imposed a ban on liquid nitrogen. It was argued in Tamil Nadu that the use of liquid nitrogen in food items at parties, weddings, and other occasions aimed to attract children's attention. It can cause skin irritation upon contact and may lead to irritation or even damage to the cornea if small drops enter the eye.

> **"Liquid nitrogen, while useful in certain industrial applications, has no place in our food. It's risks outweigh temporary enjoyment**
> – Anjali Desai, food safety advocate

A senior health department official said that liquid nitrogen should not be used in food preparation as per the 2006 Act. "It is banned even in the US. However, many individuals are disregarding these regulations, which can have adverse effects on their health. Action will be taken against those who violate these rules."

According to CNN, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) previously issued a safety alert about the dangers of consuming food made with liquid nitrogen that emphasised that the consumption of items like ice cream, cereal, or cocktails prepared with liquid nitrogen at the point of sale and then consumed shortly afterward can cause severe injuries, including damage to internal organs and breathing difficulties, especially for individuals with asthma. "The FDA has received reports of severe, and sometimes life-threatening, injuries from liquid nitrogen remaining in food or beverages, resulting in harm to the skin and internal organs," the FDA stated in its alert.

Students march for tobacco-free future

Our children are our future, and it is our responsibility to protect them from the harmful influences of tobacco, said Suralkar Vikas Kishor, BBMP's Special Commissioner for Health and Animal Husbandry, on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day on Friday in Bengaluru. He emphasised the importance of shielding young minds from the manipulative tactics of the tobacco industry. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), in collaboration with the Partnership for Healthy Cities, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, and other partners, hosted a series of successful events focused on the theme "Protecting Children from Industry Interference."

The highlight of the day was a vibrant walkathon, where around 2000 enthusiastic students walked from Freedom Park to Town Hall, demonstrating their commitment to a tobacco-free future. By partnering with the BBMP, the organisation is sending a strong message that it supports the BBMP's mission

Students participated in walkathon on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day

to shield our youth from the harmful influence of the tobacco industry, said Dr Thriveni BS, Project Director, Partnership for Healthy Cities. "The tobacco industry is targeting this generation; all of us need to speak out and expose industry interference," she said.

BBMP Chief Health Officer, Dr Syed Sirajjudin Madani, added that tobacco use remains a significant public health concern and that it is our responsibility to ensure that our children are not targeted by the industry's predatory tactics.

In addition to the walkathon, the day's activities included a poster and reel-making competition and a thrilling treasure hunt for students. These competitions encouraged creativity and raised awareness about the dangers of tobacco use. Participants vied for attractive prize money, adding an element of excitement to the educational initiatives. The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, where winners of the competitions were celebrated for their outstanding contributions. The activities held on Friday were not only a testament to the city's unwavering commitment to public health but also a powerful demonstration of the community's solidarity in the fight against tobacco.

The BBMP extended its heartfelt gratitude to all participants, organisers, and supporters who made this event a resounding success.

— BMB

Banned but not gone: State's single-use plastic ban a dud

Around 66k kg of banned plastic items, Rs. 2 crore in fines confiscated from past 2 years

| Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

'The SUP ban has stayed on paper. Plastic carry bags are available across all markets in the city'

Two years ago (on July 1, 2022), the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) directed all states, including Karnataka, to impose a strict ban on 19 single-use plastic (SUP) items. As per the rule, anyone caught using, selling, manufacturing, distributing, importing, or stocking these products will be penalised.

As per CPCB's guidelines, while the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) was expected to impose fines on defaulter producers of SUPs, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) was to impose penalties on retailers, sellers, and users of these banned items. Since then, BBMP has been seizing tonnes of banned plastic items and penalising the offenders.

Between July 1, 2022, and now, the civic agency has confiscated around 66,144.84 kg of the banned plastic items from 73,559 cases, generating a little over Rs 2.22 crore in fines. KSPCB officials in the past have cracked down on banned plastic coming in from other states.

However, city-based solid waste management experts and citizens say the ban has stayed on paper as these items continue to be used. "Plastic carry bags are available across all markets in the city. Other banned plastic items, such as plastic straws, are available openly with smaller vendors and shopkeepers. Even paper cups, plates, and wrapping films are being openly sold everywhere," said Nirmala R, a resident of Yelahanka.

Solid waste management experts highlight that while CPCB's ban came in July 2022, all 19 items referred to in the pan-India ban were already prohibited in Karnataka, with successful implementation until 2019, until the pandemic struck. However, post-pandemic, items such as plastic cups, thermocol bowls, silver plates, and pouches are being freely used at events and even religious functions, forming mixed waste in landfills or street litter and plastic waste entering our drains.

According to Odette Katrak, co-founder of Beautiful Bharat, a citizen volunteer group, agencies such as KSPCB should focus on stopping the inflow at source by sealing manufacturing units. In parallel, cross-border inflow should be plugged where both KSPCB and police involvement in checking at borders is essential. "Existing stocks should be wiped out, and BBMP must raid all wholesalers, so there is no stock left to trickle into vendors. Seized stocks must be slashed in the presence of the unit from which they are seized before being sent for recycling; this sends a powerful message, as we saw in Lalbagh, where vendors realise they stand to lose financially as there's no chance of getting the seized material back," said Katrak.

> **"Existing stocks should be wiped out; BBMP must raid all wholesalers; Seized stocks must be slashed in presence of units they are seized from**
>
> –Odette Katrak, co-founder, Beautiful Bharat

Experts also highlight the availability of banned items like black garbage bags and bin-liners online. They say a warning from BBMP on social media sites followed by immediate raids can bring about change and weed out such violations. Clarifications about nonwoven polypropylene (NWPP) bags that have been masquerading as cloth bags and being used rampantly should also be issued by the agencies.

Namma Metro plans to float tender for 'semi-naming rights'

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has made the decision to provide semi-naming rights, which will allow a sponsor to have their organisation's name as a prefix to the station's name, for metro stations that are already operating. Prior to this development, the naming rights policy applied only to upcoming stations. The tender for semi-naming rights will be floated after receiving approval from the BMRCL board and the state government.

The prefix being added falls under the 'Naming Rights' policy of BMRCL, which is approved by the government, wherein any organisation that pays Rs 65 crore towards any station on the various upcoming lines is allowed the right to have their organisation's name as a prefix to the station.

There are past instances of the policy being made use of. For example, the upcoming Electronic City station on the Yellow Line will have the prefix Infosys as it contributed Rs 100 crore to construct and maintain the particular station in 2018. A press release from Infosys said, "The station, to be named Infosys Foundation-Konappana Agrahara Metro Station, will be spread over two lakh square feet. A 3,000-square-foot space within the station will be dedicated to the foundation, which will provide local craftsmen and artisans with a platform to showcase their talent and also host exhibitions. The roof will be designed to support solar panels that will provide power for lighting, making this station a sustainable building." The already operational Sampige Road Station also has the prefix Mantri Mall. This particular policy helps mobilise private funding for metro projects while reducing the burden on the government and is not unique to Bengaluru. It is also followed in other metropolises like Delhi and Mumbai.

While some commuters are of the opinion that it is a win-win situation, others believe that private corporations must not have a say in the naming of public transport stations. In 2020, Biocon Group signed an agreement with the BMRCL, agreeing to contribute Rs 65 crore towards the construction of the Hebbagodi metro station. However, members of the Hebbagodi Municipal Corporation staged a protest to voice their criticism against the station being named 'Biocon Hebbagodi'. "Only because a company has donated a vast amount for the construction of the metro, it (the station) cannot be named after them, said Munikrishna, the municipal councillor," as reported by BM.

Another commuter speaking to BM highlighted the uncertainty at Bettahalasur Metro Station due to unresponsiveness from the Embassy Group, which had promised to fund the construction of the station at a cost of Rs 140 crore. "The group has made a number of u-turns with its decision, which will ultimately affect the deadlines. Such instances must also be kept in mind before the BMRCL puts in place any naming policies," he said, adding that strict restrictions not allowing reversals must also be put in place. **–BMB**

BBMP to cancel central parking tender

| Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

After seeing continued arrears from the Central Parking System (CPS), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is planning to cancel the contract and float a tender for a paid new parking system in Bengaluru. Parking in the central business district (CBD) is expected to become chaotic following this move.

Alleging low revenue from parking services in prime locations in Bengaluru, CPS has failed to pay BBMP for 1.5 years. However, despite notices, CPS has not cleared the arrears, according to BBMP sources. "We are planning to cancel the contract given to CPS and float a new tender. We had planned for roadside paid-parking on 85 roads but implemented it on 10 roads. Now, we are planning to implement it for 25–30 roads," said a senior BBMP official.

Previously, BBMP had disclosed that CPS had made a partial payment amounting to Rs 35 lakh. CPS was given the contract to run a paid parking system in 2018 and has been functional on 10 crow-attracting roads in Bengaluru. The services were extended to Vittal Mallya Road, Residency Road, Museum Crossroad, Kasturba Road, Cunningham Road, MG Road, St Marks Road, Mallya Hospital Road, Ali Asker Road, and Church Street.

Parking in the Central Business District is expected to become chaotic following Central Parking contract cancellation

Since March 2024, BBMP has placed the contract on suspension while also stating that they hadn't cancelled the contract. However, BM had reported that a new paid parking system under the name of 'BBMP Pay and Park' had taken over the parking services in the CBD area. After facing a failure to implement the smart parking system, the new system gives manually issued parking tokens and requires them to pay in advance. As per the rates mentioned on the boards, the system charges Rs 15 per hour for two-wheelers and Rs 30 per hour for four-wheelers.

The smart parking system by CPS was authorised to charge vehicle owners based on three-zone classifications with hourly fees of Rs 30 for four-wheelers and Rs 15 for two-wheelers in Zone A; Rs 20 for four-wheelers and Rs 10 for two-wheelers in Zone B; and Rs 15 and Rs 5 for four-wheelers and two-wheelers, respectively, in Zone C.

Lake pollution: Industries must shell out ₹142.25 crore in fines

KSPCB steps in; Closure orders for 12 units as Chandapura Lake cleanup intensifies

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

File photo of lake

Industries responsible for polluting Chandapura Lake near Electronic City will have to cough up higher penalties based on the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) revised guidelines. The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that while these establishments were to pay the environmental compensation of Rs.30.99 crore, based on the CPCB's revised guidelines, the total amount of environmental compensation has worked out to be much higher. "The total penalty to be paid by the industries is now Rs.142.25 crore. The penalty amount is yet to be collected," KSPCB has informed the green court.

The state pollution watchdog, in its action taken report, has also informed the tribunal that closure orders have been given to as many as 12 industries for discharging raw sewage into Chandapura Lake.

There are 54 defaulting units around the waterbody, of which, 12 units were issued with closure orders which were not complying with the requirements. Out of 54 units, 42 units had complied with the conditions and are operating with valid consent of the Board. Now, KSPCB is in the process of obtaining legal opinion for the withdrawal of the consent issued to the industries, which have not remitted the environmental compensation.

Notably, a year ago, NGT rapped KSPCB for its inaction leading to pollution of Chandapura Lake.

In an order from October 10, 2022, the tribunal directed the state government to pay Rs 500 crore environmental compensation for neglecting the water body's maintenance. NGT noted that authorities' inaction caused significant damage to the lake. This ruling was based on a report by a joint committee comprising representatives from NGT, CPCB, KSPCB, Indian Institute of Science, State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority of Karnataka, National Wetland Committee, State Wetland Authority, and the Bengaluru district magistrate. Additionally, reports from the Karnataka

> **"The total penalty to be paid by the industries is now Rs.142.25 crore. The penalty amount is yet to be collected** – KSPCB

chief secretary and Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board on the Chandapura Lake catchment were considered. "According to the directions issued by this Tribunal, most of the rejuvenation and rehabilitation works (at Chandapura Lake) are completed and UGD and CETP works are in progress. They have complied with all the directions issued by this Tribunal. The authorities are directed to file an updated compliance report in all respects," noted the order passed by the southern bench of the court on Tuesday.

After taking suo moto cognizance of a news article, NGT noted encroachment and waste dumping in the buffer zone of a lake spanning 7.2 acres in Heelalige Village and 17.27 acres in Chandapura town. Out of 24.27 acres; nearly two acres were encroached by construction, including a government hospital and local shops. The lake's fence was broken, and its premises were littered, highlighting significant environmental degradation in the area.

Programme to tap into practice that can help save water

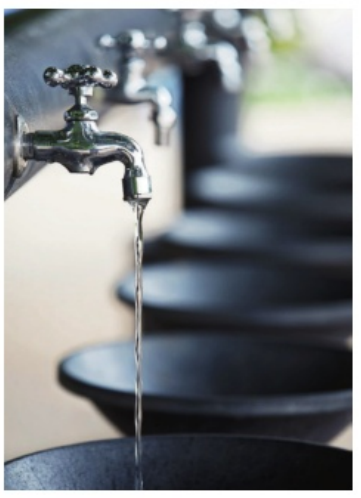
'A Billion Taps' provides youth aged 15-30 the opportunity to develop entrepreneurship skills while fostering sustainability

Iffath Fathima
Iffath.Fathima@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A waterpreneurship program, spearheaded by 'A Billion Taps,' is set to launch on June 10, 2024. This innovative initiative aims to harness the entrepreneurial potential of graduating students and young professionals to implement water-saving tap aerators in educational institutions and organisations. The program's ambitious goal is to enlist 100 Waterpreneurs who will implement aerators in 10,000 taps across 100 schools, colleges, and organisations within the next 30 days, resulting in daily water savings of over one million litres.

The program welcomes students and young professionals aged 15-30, providing them with a distinct chance to cultivate entrepreneurial skills while contributing to environmental sustainability. "Sustainability is an inclusive project. It offers an opportunity to final-year graduating students from schools and colleges to hone their skills in entrepreneurship as they step out into the professional world," said Madhavan Rao, Waterpreneur and mentor at 'A Billion Taps.'

The waterpreneurship program offers participants hands-on experience in stakeholder management, planning and execution, persuasive skills, and crafting innovative approaches to garner support from reluctant stakeholders. Rao emphasised, " One's passion will be a crucial factor in the successful completion of the program, demonstrated by achieving a water savings run rate of 1,000 to 100,000 litres per day through the installation of aerators in hand wash taps."



Participants will be mentored by experts from 'A Billion Taps' and equipped with the necessary knowledge and resources like instructional videos to demonstrate the benefits of tap aerators. No financial investment is required from the participants, as aerators will be provided by the program. Young professionals will benefit from the opportunity to showcase their leadership skills. Rao added, "It also provides young professionals with the opportunity to demonstrate leadership skills in environmental projects, making a notable impact within their organisation beyond their assigned duties."

The program aims to instil a sense of responsibility and passion for sustainability among participants, driving them to achieve tangible water savings. While the initial duration of the program is 30 days, there is no upper limit for those who wish to continue their efforts and reach higher levels of water savings. Successful participants will receive a Certificate of Entrepreneurship from 'A Billion Taps'.

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Problems in your area?
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Drain hazard
Venkatachary Nagar

The broken drain cover on 1st Cross Rd, Railway Colony, Venkatachary Nagar, R.M.V. 2nd stage is in a dreadful state. It poses a significant hazard for pedestrians.

Electrical risk
Gandhinagar

The electrical junction box on Gandhinagar, 2nd Cross Road is in a concerning state and needs immediate attention. Prompt action is required to ensure safety and prevent potential hazards.

Incomplete RuB
Valagerahalli

An incomplete road-under bridge (RuB) with an unpaved service road located opposite RV Engineering College, Valagerahalli, adjacent to Darshan College, Jnanabharathi 3rd Phase, is causing inconvenience and potential safety issues.

Kengeri known for affordable apartments with all amenities

From distant suburb to sought-after neighbourhood, Kengeri attracts buyers with strategic location, excellent connectivity, and value-packed living options

Decades ago, Kengeri was considered a distant suburb of Bengaluru. However, with modern amenities like the Metro, the widening of Mysuru Road, roads connecting the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and Kengeri, and NICE Road connectivity, today Kengeri is one of the most sought-after neighbourhoods in Bengaluru. As a result, more and more developers are focusing on offering affordable apartments with all modern amenities, catering to the needs of both first-time homebuyers and seasoned investors. This trend has garnered attention from buyers and sellers alike, creating a buzz in the local real estate market.

In recent years, Kengeri has emerged as a preferred residential destination for many reasons. Its strategic location, excellent connectivity to major IT hubs and educational institutions, serene surroundings, and relatively affordable property prices compared to the city centre have attracted a diverse range of home seekers.

One of the most notable aspects of this evolving real estate scenario in Kengeri is the availability of affordable apartments that come with a plethora of amenities. These amenities are not just limited to basic facilities but encompass a wide range of modern conveniences that enhance the overall living experience for residents.

Sellers and developers in Kengeri are keenly tapping into this demand for affordable yet amenity-rich apartments. Rajesh Kumar, a real estate developer, said, "Buyers today are looking for more than just a roof over their heads.

They want a lifestyle that offers convenience, comfort, and recreational facilities. Our projects in Kengeri are designed to meet these expectations while ensuring affordability. We understand that buyers today seek value for their money. That's why we focus on providing amenities that enhance the quality of life. Our projects are designed keeping in mind the needs of families, working professionals, and retirees alike."

Buyers, on the other hand, are delighted with the options available to them. Sneha Kumar, a young professional who recently purchased an apartment in Kengeri, shares her experience: "I was pleasantly surprised to find apartments with swimming pools, gyms, landscaped gardens, and play areas at such reasonable prices. It's like living in a resort while being close to the city. The amenities offered in these affordable apartments are varied and cater to different age groups and preferences. From fitness centres and sports facilities to community halls, children's play zones, and eco-friendly initiatives like rainwater harvesting and solar panels, developers are leaving no stone unturned to create holistic living spaces."

Arvind Reddy, a real estate consultant, said, "The response to such projects has been overwhelming. Buyers are quick to recognise the value proposition offered by these apartments, leading to faster sales and appreciation in property values. The affordability factor, coupled with the lifestyle benefits and investment potential, has made Kengeri a hotspot in Bengaluru's real estate map. Both sellers and buyers are optimistic about the future prospects of this segment, foreseeing continued growth and development in the coming years."

— **Prakash VL**

B'luru's real estate sees record-breaking sales in Q1 2024

In the first quarter of 2024, Bengaluru saw record-breaking sales with approximately 1.30 lakh units sold, a significant increase from 1.14 lakh units in Q1 2023. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and Pune accounted for over half of these sales, with MMR experiencing a 24% yearly jump and Pune a 15% rise. Despite robust sales, new launches in Bengaluru grew only marginally by 1%, from 1.10 lakh units in Q1 2023 to 1.11 lakh units in Q1 2024.

MMR and Hyderabad led in new supply, contributing 51% of Bengaluru's new launches. In contrast, regions like NCR, Kolkata, etc., saw declines in new supply by 42%, 27%, 9%, and 3%, respectively. Mid-segment homes (INR 40-80 lakh) dominated new supply in Bengaluru with a 33 % share, followed by luxury homes (above INR 1.5 crore) at 25% and premium homes (INR 80 lakh-1.5 crore) at 24%. Affordable homes (below INR 40 lakh) accounted for 18%.

ANAROCK Group Chairman Anuj Puri said that the market's significant traction, especially in high-ticket homes, and the enduring positive sentiment among homebuyers. Housing sales rose by 14%, with 17,790 units sold in Q1 2024, up from 15,660 units in Q1 2023, underscoring the market's robustness.

BBMP ignores rampant building bylaw violations

Citizens frustrated as BBMP engineers fail to act on illegal construction despite repeated notices

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities are ignoring blatant violations of building bylaws in the city. It is well known that hundreds of buildings under construction violate these laws, yet BBMP engineers take no action beyond issuing a few notices to property owners and then seemingly forgetting about these buildings in their respective jurisdictions.

For instance, the BBMP Town Planning Assistant Director (South) issued a notice to Nalini V, the owner of a property in JP Nagar 2nd Stage, advising her to demolish the portion of the building constructed in violation of building bye-laws within 30 days of receiving the notice. The BBMP issued this notice on August 8, 2023. "The BBMP will take action against you under Section 356(2) of the BBMP Act 2020 and demolish the building and collect the amount spent for the demolition of the building," the notice reads.

Later, on October 11, 2023, the BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer, JP Nagar Subdivision, wrote letters to the Assistant Executive Engineer of the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Jayanagar, to disconnect the water supply and sanitary connection to the building under construction at JP Nagar 2nd Stage. "Despite issuing a notice by the BBMP to the property owner, the construction work is in progress. So, disconnect the water supply and sanitary connection to the building under construction," the letter reads.

The BBMP Assistant Engineer, JP Nagar Subdivision, also wrote a letter on October 11, 2023, to the Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) Assistant Executive Engineer, JP Nagar, to disconnect electricity to the building immediately, as the property owner continues the construction work even after the BBMP issued a notice.

However, the BBMP engineers assigned to demolish buildings constructed in violation of building bylaws did nothing despite repeated reminders from R. Rajagopalan, president of the JP Nagar Residents' Welfare Association. "All these months, the engineers used to avoid taking action against the building on one or another pretext. I did not disturb them in the last two months as they were assigned election duty. I approached the assistant executive engineer a few days ago. He began shouting at me instead of taking action against the property owner. He is threatening to file an atrocity case against me for reminding him of his responsibility. I have written a detailed letter to the BBMP Chief Commissioner and also lodged a complaint with Karnataka Lokayukta against the assistant executive engineer and assistant engineer for dereliction of duty," said Rajagopalan.

> **"I approached the assistant executive engineer a few days ago. He began shouting at me instead of taking action against the property owner**
>
> –R Rajagopalan, president, JP Nagar Residents' Welfare Association

Meanwhile, BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer Vanaraj denied threatening to file a case against Rajagopalan. "There are many buildings constructed in violation of building bylaws in and around JP Nagar. Rajagopalan has been insisting on me daily to demolish the building. It has become difficult for me to work here," said the Assistant Executive Engineer.

Traffic cops demand buttons to change signals manually

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the traffic is not working. Currently, the signals last for nearly 25 seconds. We have to depute manpower at each signal to allow traffic movement," said a traffic official.

According to traffic cops, the system fails to coordinate the changing of signals and the determination of signal timing based on duration of traffic.

According to DULT officials, the system is in the testing stage and is likely to improve with time. The system requires the algorithm to learn about Bengaluru signals.

As per the plan, MODERATO signals are implemented at 28 signals but haven't been operationalised. The project is being implemented at the cost of Rs 70 crore funded by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and being implemented by Japan-based firm Nagoya Electric Works Co Ltd.

In May 2024, testing was done at Queen's Circle which had posed the difficulty of implementing MODERATO. The signal is planned for the following junctions: Queens Statue Circle, Anil Kumble Circle, Arts & Craft Circle, Mayo Hall, Webbs' Circle, Trinity Circle , Trinity Church Road, Begum Mahal, Manipal Centre, Kamaraj Road, Shivaji Nagar Intersection, OPERA , Ashirvadam, Old Police Station, Ashok Nagar (Shoolay Circle), Mother Theresa, D'Souza Circle, Kensington Oval, Tamari Kannan, Anjaneya Temple, Old Madras Road & Double Road (Police Station), Old Madras Road & Indiranagar 100ft Road, CMH Road - Adarsh Theatre, Swami Vivekananda Road-Cambridge Road-Bazaar Street, Old Madras Road & Indiranagar 80 Ft. Road, Garuda Mall, Hosmat, Old Madras Road, Hosur Road, and MG Road.

NIMHANS wins WHO's Nelson Mandela award

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The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) has been awarded the prestigious Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2024 by the World Health Organisation (WHO). This accolade recognises the institution's remarkable contributions to mental health promotion and its dedication to inclusive healthcare.

Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Health Minister, extended his congratulations to NIMHANS, underscoring that this award is a testament to India's efforts in advancing inclusive healthcare. "This recognition is a reflection of our commitment to ensuring mental health services are accessible to all," Dr Mandaviya stated.

"NIMHANS' innovative approaches in research, education, and patient care have set a benchmark in the field of mental health and neurosciences."

The Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion, established by WHO in 2019, acknowledges individuals, institutions, and governmental or non-governmental organisations that have shown extraordinary commitment to health promotion. The award highlights the importance of mental health and recognises the significant efforts made by NIMHANS in this domain.

Dr Pratima Murthy, Director, NIMHANS receiving the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion at Geneva, WHO. Dr Murthy said, "It is really heartening that the Nelson Mandela award for health promotion has been awarded to achievement in mental health, an aspect not recognised enough. It is also an opportune year for NIMHANS to be internationally recognised as it completes 70 years as the first postgraduate centre in Psychiatry and other branches of Mental Health, as well as the golden jubilee of NIMHANS."

The institution has been recognised for so many contributions in mental health care from the inception of the District Mental Health Program to Telemanas, from children's mental health to the mental health of the elderly, from institutional care to community care, from illness to mental wellness and well being. The Award is a testimony to the consistent, multidisciplinary work done by generations of professionals across decades and is also a great honour for the country."

As mental health gains prominence in global health discussions, NIMHANS' work continues to inspire and drive positive change in mental health policies and practices worldwide, experts stated.

SEXUAL ASSAULT CASE

FINALLY, PRAJWAL IN POLICE CUSTODY

Special court remands suspended JD(S) MP into custody till June 6

KAUSHIK JN

Prajwal Revanna being taken to a hospital for medical examination, in Bengaluru on Friday

The Special Court of People's Representatives in Bengaluru on Friday remanded suspended JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna to police custody until June 6. The 33-year-old MP, grandson of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, was arrested early Friday upon his return from Munich, Germany. He had been staying there following the release of videos allegedly showing him sexually abusing women. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed to investigate the sexual assault charges against him will conduct the interrogation. Prajwal returned from Germany a month after leaving the country when explicit videos allegedly showing his actions surfaced in Hassan.

Protection for victims

"Given the arrest warrant against him, the SIT arrested him and took him into custody, following all necessary legal procedures," said Parameshwara. He told reporters, "Naturally, he should have cooperated with the arrest. His immigration papers were cleared, and he was brought out of the airport. With his diplomatic passport, the process was smooth. After completing all due procedures, he was arrested." When asked if the government would encourage more victims to come forward, Parameshwara said, "We have already invited those who have suffered due to his actions to come forward and file complaints with the SIT and police. We will ensure their protection. We need to wait and see further developments."

All-women team

The SIT emphasized their message by deploying an all-woman police team to execute the warrant against Prajwal. As soon as he disembarked from the plane from Munich, he was met by female officers. During the arrest, he was flanked by women police personnel led by IPS officers Suman D Pennekar and Seema Latkar. He was then transported in a vehicle staffed only by female officers to the CID office. "It was a deliberate decision to send women officers to arrest Prajwal, highlighting that the JD(S) leader abused his power with women. Now, women officers have the authority to arrest him through legal proceedings," an SIT source explained. This also sent a symbolic message to the alleged victims that women officers are not intimidated by anyone.

> **"Prajwal said he has come forward to fully cooperate with the SIT. He requests that there be no media trial or unnecessary negative campaigns**
>
> – Arun G, Prajwal's advocate

Medical test

The MP was later taken for a medical examination under tight security, escorted by female police officials, to Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital. The SIT is also considering a potency test to determine if Prajwal is capable of committing sexual assault. Meanwhile, Prajwal's advocate, Arun G, met with him. "I went to speak to him. He told the media that he has come forward to cooperate with the investigation and requested that there be no media trial or unnecessary negative campaigns," Arun said. Speaking to reporters after meeting Prajwal, he added, "Prajwal said he has come forward to fully cooperate with the SIT. He wants to stand by his words and give his fullest cooperation." Arun explained the court procedures to Prajwal. On May 29, Prajwal had filed an anticipatory bail plea at the Principal City and Sessions Court for Elected Representatives, which issued a notice to the SIT to file objections before scheduling the hearing for Friday.

History of cases

In the first case registered against him at the Holenarasipura Town police station in Hassan on April 28, Prajwal is accused of sexually harassing a 47-year-old former maid. He is listed as accused number two, while his father and Holenarasipura MLA, HD Revanna, is accused number one. Prajwal has been booked in three cases of sexual assault, with additional charges of rape against him.

Showcause notice

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has issued a show-cause notice to Prajwal, questioning why his diplomatic passport should not be canceled as requested by the Karnataka government due to the sexual abuse allegations. Deve Gowda recently issued a stern warning to Prajwal, demanding he return to the country and face the investigation.

Parents in trouble

Following the arrest of Prajwal Revanna, his parents, HD Revanna and Bhavani Revanna, also fear imprisonment related to the kidnapping of one of the victims, in which they have been implicated. The special court for people's representatives had rejected the anticipatory bail plea of Bhavani Revanna. The SIT has argued strongly against granting her bail on Friday. The SIT had earlier served a notice to former ZP member Bhavani Revanna on Friday in connection with the kidnapping case under CrPC Section 41(a). The SIT has directed her to remain at her residence in Holenarasipur town, Hassan District, for questioning. The kidnapping case has been filed at KR Nagar Police Station in Mysuru District. Earlier, in a letter to the SIT on May 15, Bhavani Revanna stated she would be available at her Holenarasipur residence for questioning if needed. Sources say Bhavani Revanna has been out of the public eye for the last 15 days, hiding at an undisclosed location. If her bail plea is rejected, the SIT is likely to arrest her, and officers have been searching for her since Friday.

Bail plea reserved

The Karnataka High Court on Friday adjourned the hearing on the petition filed by Prajwal Revanna's father, MLA HD Revanna, seeking the quashing of an FIR related to a kidnapping case, until June 3. The case, registered at KR Nagara police station, involves allegations against HD Revanna and others for the abduction of a victim of sexual assault by Prajwal Revanna.

TIMELINE MAY 31

- **12:49 AM:** Prajwal Revanna arrives at Kempegowda International Airport
- **1:10 AM:** CISF takes possession of Revanna after a blue corner notice was issued.
- **1:14 AM:** Immigration process initiated.
- **1:34 AM:** Immigration process completed.
- **1:36 AM:** SIT takes possession of Revanna.
- **1:38 AM:** Prajwal exits the airport.
- **2:08 AM:** Prajwal is brought to the SIT office.
- **2:18 AM:** Prajwal is officially arrested.
- **10:30 AM:** Prajwal is subjected to primary investigation.
- **12:45 PM:** Medical tests begin at Bowring Hospital.
- **1:18 PM:** Medical tests are completed.
- **1:25 PM:** Prajwal is produced before the court.
- **3:00 PM:** Court proceedings begin.
- **4.50 PM:** Court remands Prajwal to SIT custody till June 6

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

PURPLE RADIANCE

A lacy mushroom on a dried-up tree trunk.

The picture was clicked by BM reader **A Sirisha**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

DID YOU KNOW?

Karnataka, renowned for being India's largest producer of raw silk, contributes around 70% of the country's silk output. The state's favourable climate and extensive mulberry cultivation make it ideal for sericulture. Key regions like Mysuru, Ramanagara, and Bengaluru are central to this production, fostering a thriving silk industry. Karnataka's sericulture sector supports over a million people, reflecting its economic and cultural significance. The state also hosts the Central Silk Board, reinforcing its pivotal role in sustaining and advancing India's silk production capabilities.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

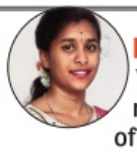
where Bengalureans speak their mind

Do you think sub-urban trains will help alleviate traffic in Bengaluru?

Maruthi, BM Reader
Yes, suburban trains can help reduce traffic because they can accommodate a large number of passengers, reducing the dependence on individual vehicles and easing traffic congestion.

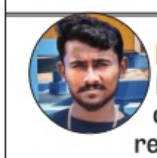
Subharamanya, BM Reader
Yes, suburban trains are more environmentally friendly than individual vehicles, contributing to a reduction in air pollution and carbon emissions. Suburban trains can enhance connectivity between different parts of the city.

Supriya, BM Reader
No, the suburban train network may not cover all areas of Bengaluru, leaving many commuters reliant on other modes of transportation, thus not significantly reducing traffic in the entire city.



Hema, BM Reader
Yes, suburban trains will help to reduce traffic. The implementation of suburban trains can influence urban planning, encouraging development around train stations and reducing urban sprawl.

Bharath V, BM Reader
No, I think it will create more traffic because of the metro construction. Construction projects necessitate the diversion of traffic routes, creating confusion among commuters as they navigate unfamiliar paths.



Naveen Kumar, BM Reader
No, if suburban trains do not operate with high frequency and reliability, commuters might find it inconvenient and prefer other modes of transport. They serve some areas, they may not significantly reduce overall traffic.

SPEAK TO US

Which are your favourite tourist places in and around Bengaluru within the range of 100 km?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

Water literacy for govt schools in Bengaluru

Amid climate crisis, municipal schools take bold steps in water conservation and eco-education

Government schools are often criticised for being in poor condition. However, many of these schools are now taking bold steps in rainwater harvesting (RWH). Bengaluru has been experiencing the unprecedented effects of the global climate crisis, including unusual temperature rises, frequent drought-like conditions, recurrent flooding, and acute water shortages that wreak havoc on urban dwellers' lives. RWH is being implemented in nine government schools, with two more to follow shortly.

Rain Reach, a programme aimed at providing "eco-education for school-going children," is led by the AltTech Foundation. It educates school children on the importance of conserving water and employing sustainable practices to preserve this resource, especially in today's context. The programme consists of various components or actionable items discussed with students, teachers, and management via qualified mentors and volunteers. These measures include installing rainwater harvesting systems with filtration, a net-zero sanitation system, and mobilising water volunteers and experts to guide the children and faculty. This programme is largely implemented in municipal schools located in the north of Bangalore.

Students participating in an awareness campaign on rainwater harvesting

The Rain Reach programme encourages students of municipality-run schools in urban Bengaluru, aged 12 to 16, to learn under the guidance of teachers, volunteers, and mentors and eventually become water-wise young Indians. Hariharan Chandrashekar, trustee at the AltTech Foundation, said, "We realised there are nearly 1.8 million children in Bangalore's four districts alone. A good chunk of them are in Govt schools run by BBMP, who were receptive to the idea. We implement hardware solutions by fixing water-efficient taps, digital meters for monitoring real-time data of water flow, creating a pipe network for harvesting rooftop rainwater and filtering it before use, fixing their RO systems for drinking water and maintaining them, and so on."

Chandrashekar explained, "We found that in the schools, water purifier systems were not working, pipes were broken, pumps were not working, and the schools did not have the money to fix them. We were happy to solve those issues and gain the confidence, trust, and gratitude of the teachers."

Chandrashekar said, "There is enough regulation in the city: a ban on borewells, a law on the reuse of treated wastewater, harvesting water from rooftops of homes and all other buildings, and so on. If the crisis in the city is deepening, it is because of citizen defiance and violation of the law. The Government can do little to police such wanton unlawfulness." **— Ankita Govind**

Many questions... No answers, yet

OpenAI's Altman sidesteps questions about governance, Johansson at UN AI summit

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman (R) speaking remotely during a keynote with Nicholas Thompson, CEO of The Atlantic during the International Telecommunication Union AI for Good Global Summit, in Geneva

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman was a star speaker at the annual AI for Good conference Thursday, addressing the UN telecommunications agency's annual gathering about how to tap the societal promise of artificial intelligence technology.

But Altman spent part of his virtual appearance fending off thorny questions about governance, an AI voice controversy and criticism from ousted board members. Altman's appearance to talk about AI's benefits comes as his company has been battling a tide of concern about its business practices and how it handles AI safety.

He was among tech leaders to join the Geneva meet as the two-day event hosts talks on artificial intelligence applications for robotics, medicine, education, sustainable development and more.

The latest round of discontent at OpenAI coincided with the company's new product showcase earlier in May that drew the ire of Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson, who said she was shocked to hear ChatGPT's voice sounding "eerily similar" to her own despite having previously rejected Altman's request that she lend her voice to the system. Altman talked at length about themes related to AI in an interview with Nicholas Thompson, CEO of The Atlantic. But he avoided answering questions about a few sensitive topics, such as explaining the ChatGPT-maker's use of an actor's voice that resembled Johansson's.

> **"Transforming its potential into reality requires AI that reduces bias, misinformation and security threats, instead of aggravating them**
>
> – António Guterres, UN Secretary-General

"It's not her voice. It's not supposed to be. I'm sorry for the confusion. Clearly you think it is," Altman said, noting that people are going to have different opinions about how much voices sound alike. "Not sure what else to say," Altman added. Thompson, whose magazine struck a product and content deal with OpenAI a day earlier, didn't follow up.

He later asked Altman about governance at OpenAI, including an idea for a governance board.

"We continue to talk about how to implement governance. I probably shouldn't say too much more right now," Altman said.

"Say a little bit more," Thompson replied. "I will pass. I'm sorry," Altman responded.

Oversight for big AI companies like OpenAI has been an increasingly heated topic. Soon after the Johansson controversy, departing researcher Jan Leike said the company was letting safety "take a backseat to shiny products" and cited disagreements with top leaders that reached a "breaking point."

OpenAI has been riding a new wave of generative AI technology that burst into public view 18 months ago when it launched ChatGPT, an early standout among AI systems that churn out novel text, images and video based on a vast database of online writings, books and other media.

While the UN's "AI for Good" efforts predate the latest generative AI craze, the technology's rapid advancement and commercialization have attracted the world's attention.

"Artificial intelligence is changing our world and our lives," UN Secretary-General António Guterres said by video, noting its promise for things like education and health care in remote areas, increasing crop yields, and early warning systems for natural disasters.

Political leaders around the world are concerned about AI tools that could supercharge the spread of online disinformation: With a few typed commands and requests, computer-generated texts and images can be spread on social media and across the internet — blurring the line between fake news and reality. **AP**

'Brace for financial frauds as data leakage is rampant'

Financial frauds have taken new forms and data leakage is now rampant, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officials have warned, highlighting the need for citizen awareness programmes.

Addressing a session at the PHD House in the national capital organised by the PHDCCI, Brijlal Singh, deputy general manager and deputy ombudsman, RBI, said fraud is now one of the most common topics in newspapers and everyone is vulnerable to it.

"The only way to protect oneself is through awareness and precautions, as fraud takes many forms and data leakage is rampant. Driven by ignorance, greed, and fear, financial fraud highlights the need for awareness programmes," he told the gathering.

Cybercrime is projected to cost the world $17.65 trillion annually by 2025, with factors like anonymity and trans-border syndicates contributing to it.

Singh further mentioned various types of fraud such as ATM fraud, prevalent due to the high percentage of cash transactions, and card skimming which is now mitigated to some level after introducing chip systems.

He also discussed fraudsters employing corporate-like strategies, fake KYC updates, and advanced technology like deepfakes.

"It was a myth that fingerprints cannot be copied. With someone's Aadhaar number, fingerprints can be easily duplicated and frauds committed, misusing a facility initially meant for convenience," said the RBI official.

According to Ranjeet Mehta, Executive Director, PHDCCI, India is the youngest country in the world and the rapid pace of digital activity is remarkable. **IANS**

BITS & BYTES

DELL SHARES DROP

Dell Technologies shares tumbled about 14% in premarket trading on Friday, as the PC and server maker expects sizeable AI investments to dent its quarterly profit. Dell is on track to lose more than $17 billion in market value, if premarket losses hold. The stock has more than doubled this year.

Companies, including Dell, have been investing heavily in pricey hardware to build-out advanced servers with the ability to process complex artificial intelligence tasks as more businesses rush to adopt the technology. **Reuters**

TIKTOK DENIES CODE CLAIM

Chinese short-video-making app TikTok, which is facing a nationwide ban in the US, on Friday denied a media report that it is splitting its source code to create a US-only algorithm to bypass the ban.A media report claimed that TikTok is working to create a version of its recommendation algorithm that operates independently from Douyin, the Chinese version operated by its parent company ByteDance. "The Reuters story published today is misleading and factually inaccurate," TikTok said in a post on X social media platform. The company said that as per its court filing, "the qualified divestiture demanded by the Act to allow TikTok to continue operating in the US is simply not possible". **IANS**

CHIPMAKERS EYE MORE

Chipmakers across the globe are pouring billions of dollars into new plants, encouraged by the rising use of semiconductors in everyday devices and generous subsidies from the United States and the EU aimed at keeping the West ahead of China in the race for cutting-edge technology. The European Commission has earmarked 15 billion euros for public and private semiconductor projects by 2030, while U.S. President Joe Biden's administration passed the CHIPS Act last year to provide more than $52 billion in subsidies to the American semiconductor industry. The Act deters companies using U.S. funds from undertaking any big expansion overseas. **Reuters**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Not a fitting epitaph

A few people are bringing workers from outside to construct tombs and samadhis when we refuse to work for them. They are demanding that we produce the BBMP's order copy when we told them not to go ahead with the construction of samadhis and tombs. Frazer Town Police have also refused to receive the complaint against some people for constructing samadhis and tombs. The police al demanded that I produce the order copy," said A Shauri Raj, secretary, BBMP Burial Ground Workers' Association.

He said that some families prefer to bury bodies of their relatives on the same spot where the bodies of their grandparents or family members were already buried as they do not want to bury bodies of their family members at different locations. "There are occasions where the old grave is dug up again to bury one more body," he said.

Residents from nearby areas such as Cox Town, Frazer Town, Shivajinagar, Byappanahalli, Maruthi Seva Nagar and other areas are not happy with the amenities available at Kalpalli Burial Ground. They complain about shortage of water even for the ritual – people who attended the burial washing their feet.

"I am dissatisfied with the cleanliness at the burial ground which is the final destination for all. The BBMP authorities have to take measures to remove weeds and garbage from the burial ground. The workers have to maintain cleanliness at this burial ground on par with the adjacent cemetery and also construct residential quarters for people working at the burial ground," said NS Ravi, president, Bharathinagar Residents' Forum.

Meanwhile, BBMP Medical Officer Dr Manjula has said the construction of all types of structures is banned at Kalpalli Burial Ground as it is fast running out of space. "We have put up a board advising the people not to take up construction of samadhis at the burial ground.

The BBMP has passed an order banning the construction of samadhis. We can provide a copy of the order if people, including police, want to go through it," said Dr Manjula.

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Duty Doctors	Residents	MBBS with 1 year / fresher Experience. **(05 open positions)**
Human Resource	HR Manager	MBA with 10 years Experience. **(01 open positions)**
Human Resource	HR Assistant	MBA with 02 year expereince / fresher. **(02 open positions)**
Accounts	Assistant Manager/Sr. Executives	B.Com / CA with 02 year experience. **(03 open positions)**
Retail / Neighborhood Marketing	Assistant Manager / Sr. Executives	Graduation / MBA with 04 years expereince. **(08 open positions)**
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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Sanyam Mulay S/O, Suhas Prabhakar Mulay R/o Arcadia Apartment, Carmelaram, Bengaluru have changed my name to Sanyam Suhas Mulay.

I Avani Parekh W/O, Vinay Doshi R/o D- 247, Ds Max Signature Apartment, Lkr Nagar, Rmv Extension 2nd Stage, Bangalore -560094 have changed my name to Avani Vinay Doshi.

I, SRINIVASA GAVIYAPPA S/o Gaviyappa Boraiah, R/at No.17, 4th Cross, BCC Layout, 2nd Stage, Chandra Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru- 560040 have changed my name to SRINIVAS GAVIYAPPA vide affidavit dated: 31/05/2024 Before Notary V.Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I, Aslam Pasha S/o Late Zaheeruddin, R/at Dodda kunnala at Post, Kadaba Hobli, Gubbi Taluk, Tumkur Dist, Karnataka, here by declare that my father correct name is Late Zaheeruddin only, vide affidavit dt: 23.05.2024, before notary A.S Shashidhara, Gubbi

I, KODI DATTATREYA R/O No 41 2nd Cross 2nd Main Near Avani Shankarmutt Kirloskar Colony Basaveshwaranagar Blore 79 have changed my name to KODI DATTATREYA UDUPA vide Affidavit dt. 30.05.2024 sworn before notary Mr. C Srinivas, Bengaluru.

I Narava Tulasi Mani Narava W/O, Raju Gottupalli R/o 130/2, First Floor, 15th Cross, Kuvempu Road, Vignan Nagar, Bangalore 560075 have changed my name to Tulasi Mani Narava .

I Venkatesh Priyanka D/o Ravindranath Naidu N P R/o # 20 4th Cross West of KR Road 7th Block Jayanagar, B'luru-560070 have changed my name to Priyanka Niveditha vide Affidavit dt 31/05/2024 before notary B S Padmaprasad B'luru

I, SWAPNA NIRANJAN W/o Niranjan.B.C., R/at No.1051, 14th Cross, BSK 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560070 have changed my name to SAPNA NIRANJAN vide affidavit dated: 31/05/2024 Before Notary V.Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I, Kaustubh R/o of 331512 Building 3 Tower 3 Prestige Jindal City Tumkur Main Road, 7th Cross, Manjunatha Nagar, Bagalakunte, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560073, India have changed my name to Kaustubh Yadav

I, FUNDE KALPANA D/o Rambhao Funde Bhimrao residing at A-13 1st flr A block diamond district old airport road HAL, Blr 08 have changed my name to BHIMRAO FUNDE KALPANA vide an aff date 27/05/24.

I, Neeta W/O : Maulik Trivedi R/O Flat 303, Sangam Paradise, 6th Main, 1st C Cross, Vinayaka Layout, Chinnapanahalli, Marathalli, PO Marathalli :Bengaluru 560037. Have Change My Name To Neeta Verma

I, Mamtha Anilkumar W/O, Anilkumar K R/o No 115, 1st Flr, 4th Stage, Srinidhi Layout, Vidyaranyapura Post, B'luru 56097 have changed my name to Mamatha B S for all purposes.

I, Arathi Perumal Devendra D/O, Perumal R/o Room No. 202, Mathapathi Visthaar, 21st C Cross, 2nd Main Rd, Vignan Nagar B'lore-560075. have changed my name to Aarti Vetriselvan for all purposes.

I, Rahul S/o. S M Parameshwara R/o No.60, 1st Floor, 5th Main, 12th Cross, Wilson garden, Bangalore - 560030 have changed my name to Rahul P for all future purposes.

I, Manisha Victor, Residing at No 151, 1, Sedam Road Opp Basaveshwar Hospital, Vidyanagar, Kalaburgi, My Father name is recorded as VICTOR CHALADURAI, ARULANANDAM VICTOR CHALADURAI MOHAN and A VICTOR in multiple documents and are one and same, vide affidavit dated 31/05/2024 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, Sejal Kethohalli Srihari D/o Srihari Kethohalli Siddaraju R/o #103 Kvr Iris Bilekahalli Main Rd, K C Halli B'luru-560070 have changed my name to Sejal Srihari for all purposes

I, Vishakha D/O, Binay Kumar Singh R/O Flat A 102 Block A, Surya Shakti 80 Trees, Doddakannalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka have changed my name to Vishakha Singh.

I Naveen Kumar Sl S/O, Lokappa Gowda R/o No Sb 304 3rd Floor Sapthagiri Nivas S V Layout Jp Nagar 6th Phase Bangalore- 560078 have changed my name to Naveen Sl.

I, Achuta Rao Manoji Rao S/o Manoji Rao R/o No 4, Sms Layout 19th Cross 20th Main 5th Phase Bangalore-560078 have changed my name to Achuta Rao for all purposes.

I, Shweta D/O, Jitender Kumar Singh R/o 861, 1st Floors, 7th Cross, 11th Main Road ,iti Layout Bangalore 560068 have changed my name to Shweta Kumari for all purposes.

I, Ranganatha.N S/O, Narayanappa R/o No 213/2 8th Cross Nagasandra Colony Nagasandra Bengaluru 560073 have changed my name to Ranganath.N for all purposes.

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GET NOTICED

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ಸವ
Bengaluru Utsava
Grand Flea Market
Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath
Kumara Krupa Road, Bengaluru
Date: 31st May 2024
to
9th June 2024
Timing: 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
(Art, Craft, Handlooms & Lifestyle Exhibition)
Art & Craft | Handicraft | Clothing
Fashion Accessories | Home Decor & More
FOOD
(10 Days Exhibition)
100+ Stalls
Entry Free!
Home Decors | Handmade Paintings | Ceramic Pots |Handlooms & Handicrafts | Curtains | Carpets | Mats | Bags | Khadi Kurtas | Silks Saree | Sarees | Designer Kurtis | Bandhani Bedsheets | Designer Jewelry | Handmade Jewelry | Toys | Pots & Much more...
For Details Contact : 6364685716 / 9036658774
Entry Free..!
100+ Shopping Stalls | Live Performance | Much More!

Southwest monsoon advances, even as heatwave claims numerous lives

Come rain and shine

A fishing boat being lifted from a sea coast before monsoon, at Miderland in Mumbai on Friday

The Southwest Monsoon has advanced into the remaining parts of northeast Bay of Bengal, Tripura, Meghalaya and Assam and most parts of Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday.

"The Southwest Monsoon has advanced into the remaining parts of the northeast Bay of Bengal and some parts of the northwest Bay of Bengal, remaining parts of Tripura, Meghalaya, Assam and most parts of Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim," said the weather department.

The IMD on Thursday announced the onset of Southwest monsoon over Kerala and northeast India.

The monsoon hit the country's mainland two days in advance of its normal date of onset on June 1.

Normally, the southwest monsoon sets in over Kerala on June 1 and it advances over most of northeast India by June 5.

Thus, the southwest monsoon has set in over Kerala two days before the normal date and over northeast India, six days before the normal date, according to the IMD.

As per the IMD, it has also advanced into most parts of the Lakshadweep area, most of the south Arabian Sea, some parts of the central Arabian Sea, and some parts of south Tamil Nadu.

Meanwhile, over 50 people have reportedly died due to heatstroke in different parts of the country since Thursday.

These deaths were reported as the temperature soared past 50 degrees Celsius in parts of North India, including Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar this week.

Four people succumbed to heatstroke and died at the Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH) in Odisha's Sundargarh on Friday morning, said an official.

At least 5 people died after suffering heatstrokes at a hospital in Bihar's Aurangabad district, said an official on Friday. The death toll due to heat wave conditions in Bihar's Aurangabad, which reached 12 earlier has risen to 17 as of Friday. District Magistrate, Aurangabad, Shrikant Shastri spoke on the development of the casualties as part of heat-related issues and said, "5 people admitted to the hospital died. When we will get the post-mortem report, then we will get to know the exact reason." **-ANI**

What caused unprecedented rise in temperature

Here is a look at what caused the unprecedented heat.

HOW UNUSUAL IS IT?

While every year temperatures in India tend to peak in the months of May and June, the number of heatwave days recorded over northwestern and eastern parts of the country this season have been more than double the normal, with eastern India also experiencing its hottest April on record.

India declares a heatwave day when the maximum temperature in any given region is 4.5 -6.4 degrees Celsius higher than normal. Parts of the country have touched new highs in terms of the maximum temperature, including Delhi, which recorded the country's highest ever temperature at 52.9 C (127.22°F) on Wednesday.

While this figure may be revised as officials are investigating whether it was caused by an error in the sensor, two areas in Delhi also recorded 49.9 C a day earlier - an all-time high for the city.

WHY THE RISE?

Scientists said that while a rise in temperatures during May and June is normal, it is usually controlled by periodic western disturbances, which are weather systems originating in the Mediterranean Sea that bring moisture-laden winds. These neutralise the impact of the hot, dry air coming from the direction of Pakistan and Afghanistan into northern India.

Women cover themselves to shield from the heat, in Patna on Friday

This year, however, there were more western disturbances between March and early May than usual, while their strength has reduced over the last "10-15 days", leaving the wind coming from neighbouring countries unchecked and causing temperatures to rise. **-Reuters**

Water crisis: Delhi govt moves SC for release of water from Haryana

Amid the water shortage in the national capital, the Delhi government on Friday approached the Supreme Court to get immediate additional water from neighbouring Haryana.

Delhi government in its plea said that it is constrained to file the petition on account of the acute shortage of water being faced by the people of of Delhi, triggered by the ongoing severe heat conditions in North India, particularly in the national capital. "Direct the Respondent no. 1 (Haryana) for immediate and continuous release of water at the Wazirabad barrage," the plea stated.

The record-high temperatures and heatwave in Delhi, which has resulted in maximum temperature rising up to around 50 degrees Celsius at some places, have caused an extraordinary and excessive surge in demand for water in the city, it said. As a result, the national capital is dealing with a water shortage which has led to frequent supply cuts in many parts of the NCT of Delhi, and has disrupted the daily life of the ordinary residents, added the plea.

It further stated, "The Government of NCT of Delhi has taken all administrative measures to ensure optimisation, rationing and targeted supply of water in the national capital; yet, the shortage of water remains acute and it is clear, by all indicators, that the NCT of Delhi is in dire need of additional water."

Residents fill water from a tanker amid water crisis, in Chanakyapuri area of New Delhi on Friday

It said that in order to deal with this unanticipated demand in the summer months, the Delhi government has already devised a solution to meet the increased demand for water in the national capital -- the State of Himachal Pradesh, has agreed to share its surplus water with Delhi.

"Himachal Pradesh does not share a physical boundary with the NCT of Delhi. Therefore, the excess /surplus water released by Himachal Pradesh has to be transported through the existing water channels/river systems in Haryana and released to Delhi at the Wazirabad barrage. Therefore, Haryana's facilitation and cooperation, which is not being provided as of date, is imperative," the petition stated.

Delhi government said that it has already raised the issue of unrelenting heat and the consequent water crisis in the national capital with Haryana and has requested it to release the surplus water in the Wazirabad barrage, however, Haryana is yet to accede to such request.

"Be that as it may, by way of the instant petition, the Petitioner- Delhi government does not intend to shift the blame on Haryana or any other State, and only prays for an immediate resolution of the ongoing water crisis in the national capital through the release of the surplus water -- including but not limited to surplus water being provided by Himachal Pradesh in the Wazirabad barrage - by Haryana," it added. **-ANI**

HSR Layout : PNR Felicity Mall Haralur Rd 11.15 AM, 4.35 PM; Lulu Mall, Bengaluru VIP 4.20 PM; Lulu Mall, Bengaluru 7.00 PM; Nexus Shantiniketan, Bengaluru 10.30, 3.45, 6.45; Orion East Mall, Banaswadi 1.05, 7.00 PM; Royal Meenakshi Mall 1.00, 7.00 PM; Gopalan Cinemas Arcade Mysore Road 11.10, 4.15; Gopalan Cinemas : Bannerghatta Road 4.55 PM; Gopalan Signature Mall : Old Madras Road 2.15, 4.45 PM; INOX Megaplex of Asia Bangalore 10.10 AM; PVR Superplex Forum Kanakapura Road 4.15;

FOR ANY CHANGES OR CANCELLATIONS IN SHOW TIMINGS PLEASE CONTACT THE THEATER

HEALTH TIP: Wear a hat or use hair products with UV filters to shield your strands from the sun's harmful rays

One cup of pineapple chunks can provide you with your daily supplement of vitamins such as vitamin C, vitamin B6

GET SMART

What are nootropics and do they really boost your brain?

Humans have long been searching for a "magic elixir" to make us smarter, and improve our focus and memory. This includes traditional Chinese medicine used thousands of years ago to improve cognitive function.

Now we have nootropics, also known as smart drugs, brain boosters or cognitive enhancers.

You can buy these gummies, chewing gums, pills and skin patches online, or from supermarkets, pharmacies or petrol stations. You don't need a prescription or to consult a health professional.

But do nootropics actually boost your brain? Here's what the science says.

What are nootropics and how do they work?

Romanian psychologist and chemist Cornelius E Giurgea coined the term nootropics in the early 1970s to describe compounds that may boost memory and learning. The term comes from the Greek words n'os (thinking) and tropein (guide).

Nootropics may work in the brain by improving transmission of signals between nerve cells, maintaining the health of nerve cells, and helping in energy production. Some nootropics have antioxidant properties and may reduce damage to nerve cells in the brain caused by the accumulation of free radicals.

But how safe and effective are they? Let's look at four of the most widely used nootropics.

1 Caffeine

You might be surprised to know caffeine is a nootropic. No wonder so many of us start our day with a coffee. It stimulates our nervous system.

Caffeine is rapidly absorbed into the blood and distributed in nearly all human tissues. This includes the brain where it increases our alertness, reaction time and mood, and we feel as if we have more energy.

For caffeine to have these effects, you need to consume 32-300 milligrams in a single dose. That's equivalent to around two espressos (for the 300mg dose). So, why the wide range? Genetic variations in a particular gene (the CYP1A2 gene) can affect how fast you metabolise caffeine. So this can explain why some people need more caffeine than others to recognise any neurostimulant effect.

Unfortunately too much caffeine can lead to anxiety-like symptoms and panic attacks, sleep disturbances, hallucinations, gut disturbances and heart problems.

So it's recommended adults drink no more than 400mg caffeine a day, the equivalent of up to three espressos.

2 L-theanine

L-theanine comes as a supplement, chewing gum or in a beverage. It's also the most common amino acid in green tea.

Consuming L-theanine as a supplement may increase production of alpha waves in the brain. These are associated with increased alertness and perception of calmness.

However, its effect on cognitive functioning is still unclear. Various studies including those comparing a single dose with a daily dose for several weeks, and in different populations, show different outcomes.

But taking L-theanine with caffeine as a supplement improved cognitive performance and alertness in one study. Young adults who consumed L-theanine (97mg) plus caffeine (40mg) could more accurately switch between tasks after a single dose, and said they were more alert.

Another study of people who took L-theanine with caffeine at similar doses to the study above found improvements in several cognitive outcomes, including being less susceptible to distraction.

Although pure L-theanine is well tolerated, there are still relatively few human trials to show it works or is safe over a prolonged period of time. Larger and longer studies examining the optimal dose are also needed.

3 Ashwagandha

Ashwagandha is a plant extract commonly used in Indian Ayurvedic medicine for improving memory and cognitive function.

In one study, 225-400mg daily for 30 days improved cognitive performance in healthy males. There were significant improvements in cognitive flexibility (the ability to switch tasks), visual memory (recalling an image), reaction time (response to a stimulus) and executive functioning (recognising rules and categories, and managing rapid decision making).

There are similar effects in older adults with mild cognitive impairment.

But we should be cautious about results from studies using Ashwagandha supplements; the studies are relatively small and only treated participants for a short time.

4 Creatine

Creatine is an organic compound involved in how the body generates energy and is used as a sports supplement. But it also has cognitive effects.

In a review of available evidence, healthy adults aged 66-76 who took creatine supplements had improved short-term memory.

Long-term supplementation may also have benefits. In another study, people with fatigue after covid took 4g a day of creatine for six months and reported they were better able to concentrate, and were less fatigued. Creatine may reduce brain inflammation and oxidative stress, to improve cognitive performance and reduce fatigue.

Side effects of creatine supplements in studies are rarely reported. But they include weight gain, gastrointestinal upset and changes in the liver and kidneys.

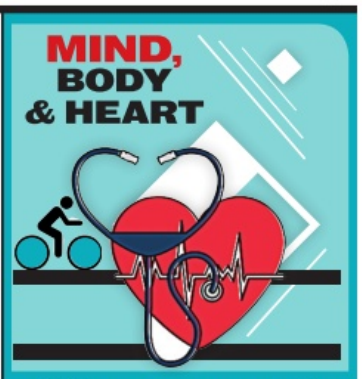
Where to now?

There is good evidence for brain boosting effects of caffeine and creatine. But the jury is still out on the efficacy, optimal dose and safety of most other nootropics.

So until we have more evidence, consult your health professional before taking a nootropic.

But drinking your daily coffee isn't likely to do much harm. Thank goodness, because for some of us, it is a magic elixir.

(By Nenad Naumovski, Amanda Bulman and Andrew McKune, University of Canberra, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Summer haircare

Hydrate From Within
As the temperature rises, your hair deserves some extra care to combat the damaging effects of heat, humidity, and UV rays," says Dr Ishmeet Kaur, Consultant Dermatologist. Start with hydration from the inside out. Drink plenty of water to keep your body and hair hydrated, especially in hot weather when dehydration is common.

Use A Moisturizing Shampoo And Conditioner
Opt for hydrating shampoos and conditioners that replenish moisture and nourish your hair. Look for ingredients like coconut oil, shea butter, or argan oil to lock in hydration.

Limit Heat Styling
Give your hair a break from hot tools like blow dryers, straighteners, and curling irons. Embrace your natural texture or opt for heatless styling methods to prevent further drying and damage.

Deep Conditioning Treatments
Treat your hair with weekly deep conditioning treatments to restore moisture and repair any damage caused by the summer elements. Choose products with ingredients like keratin or silk protein for added strength and hydration.

Protective Hairstyles
Keep your hair off your face and neck with protective hairstyles like braids, buns, or ponytails. Not only do these styles prevent breakage from friction, but they also help minimize exposure to heat and humidity.

Cool Rinse
After spending time in the sun or swimming in chlorinated pools, rinse your hair with cool water to remove salt, chlorine, and other impurities. This helps prevent dryness and maintains your hair's natural shine.

Trim Regularly
Schedule regular trims to get rid of split ends and prevent them from traveling up the hair shaft, causing further damage. Fresh cuts also help maintain the overall health and appearance of your hair.

—Femina

 # Prayers said Megastar Rajinikanth paid a sacred visit to the Kedarnath Dham and Badrinath Dham in Uttarakhand.

Reel fun

Acclaimed actress Vidya Balan has become a social media sensation thanks to her engaging "reels" on the platform, which she says she started making about two years ago and is having fun making them.

Talking about her tryst with making reels on social media and going viral with them, Vidya told IANS: "It has been about two years, and I was shooting in London for 'Neeyat', and I had a lot of time, and that's why one day, I just decided that my manager had been telling me, 'Why don't we do reels'."

After her first reel video went viral and received love from her fans, Vidya found herself hooked. An avid social media user, she consistently entertains her followers with her clips. "I would do one reel in one or two months, and then she said we have the time to shoot a reel, and I was just having fun. After it went viral, I realised that I did what I enjoy, and people are also enjoying it. So, I started doing it regularly. I am just having fun, honestly," said the actress, who boasts a following of over 9.4 million on Instagram.

— IANS

Shoe bite

How PeeCee handled small heel hiccup with laughter

Priyanka Chopra recently had a funny mishap, but she handled it like a true star! While attending an event, the actress' heels got stuck as she was trying to pose in a lift.

A fan club shared a video of the incident, which has since gone viral.

In the video, Priyanka is seen wearing a stunning golden gown and striking a pose for the cameras inside a lift.

As she tried to adjust her position, the lift doors began to close, causing her to laugh. To prevent the doors from closing, she put one foot outside, maintaining her poise and flashing her beautiful smile. However, when she tried to pull herself back into the lift her heel got stuck to the floor, catching her off guard.

Despite the unexpected situation, Priyanka did not let it ruin her evening. She gracefully extricated herself and walked out of the building with confidence and style.

Priyanka is currently in Australia, filming for her upcoming movie "The Bluff." She shared a photo of her journey and captioned it, "Touchdown… The Bluff. With the best travel partner ever." (referring to daughter Malti)

Earlier this year, the actress announced her role in "The Bluff" on social media. She quoted Mark Twain, writing, "Now and then, we had a hope that if we lived and were good, God would permit us to be pirates."

The film's production team includes AGBO's Anthony Russo, Joe Russo, Angela Russo-Otstot, Michael Disco, and Cinestar Pictures' Cisely Saldana and Mariel Saldan.

Executive producers are AGBO's Chris Castaldi, Ari Costa, Kassee Whiting, Cinestar Pictures' Zoe Saldaña, Rocket Science's Thorsten Schumacher, Joe Ballarini, and Frank E Flowers.

In addition to "The Bluff," Priyanka will also be seen in the second season of "Citadel." She has another exciting project lined up: the action-comedy "Heads of State," where she stars alongside Idris Elba and John Cena.

— ETimes

Family getaway

Shlipa Shetty Kundra is a versatile Indian celebrity with a remarkable presence in various fields. Beyond acting, Shilpa has ventured into reality television, earning acclaim as a judge on shows.

Recently, Shilpa Shetty Kundra was spotted at the airport with her family as she flew to London with her family for a vacation. She went on the trip with her son Viaan, daughter Samisha, and her mom, making it a lovely family getaway. Fans can't wait to see more of her vacation and the stylish looks she'll share. Keep an eye out for updates on Shilpa's London trip!

At the airport, she caught everyone's eye, showing that you can be comfy and fashionable while traveling. Shilpa wore an all-black outfit, including a cap, adding extra glam to her look, Her mother opted for a red dress, while her kids wore simple hoodies and sweatpants.

— ETimes

How Wolverine got back

Hugh Jackman, who is known for his roles in 'Van Helsing', 'Prisoners', 'Les Miserables', among others, talked about the challenges of reprising his role as Wolverine in the upcoming 'Deadpool and Wolverine' film, reported Deadline.

"When I came back to it, it was really fun and I was thrilled. My body was a little sore at the beginning, but I was thrilled that my body was still responding. And I realized how good it is for your brain. But the hardest bit...the food," said Jackman. He's always had trouble bulking up.

"I have to eat a lot. For me, for my body type, I'm naturally skinny. To get the size on, that's the hardest bit. That's the bit that does my head in," he added.

Earlier, Ryan Reynolds said he "couldn't believe" the physicality he saw from Jackman.

"Just the sheer relentlessness that you dedicated yourself towards stunts, choreography. It was the first time I'd ever seen how invaluable a background in song and dance is when you are doing an action movie," he said. "You hit your marks in those fight scenes. I don't care if you were 25, 35, 45 or 55. It was lightning."

— ANI

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

On Dasaiah tradition

Dasappa, a movie based on the Dasaiah tribe in Karnataka, is in the making. The trailer of the movie was released by lyricist-cum-director Chethan Kumar at Renukamba Preview Theater on Wednesday. Thammanna who acted in national award-winning Kannada movie Thithi, plays the lead in the movie.

On the occasion, director Vijay Kilara said he was inspired by Thithi, that was released eight years ago, to write the script for the movie. "I am from Kilara in Mandya. The movie Dasappa is set in a village backdrop. It explains the importance of Dasappa or Dasaiah in rural areas of Karnataka. No function is complete without Dasappa at villages. The film narrates the problems of Dasappas," said Keelara.

Anand Kempegowda Kebballi, in association with Srinivas and Raghavendra, has bankrolled Dasappa.

The movie features Manju Pavagada, Vinod Gobragala, Anjana Girish, Surakshita Shetty, Sinchana Gowda. The movie has no songs and action scenes. The shooting of the movie was held at Keelara, Maddur, and Mandya.

"I am very happy to get the opportunity of playing the lead in the movie," said Thammanna. Srinivas, one of the co-producers, said he agreed to be a co-producer as its script is very interesting. "Apart from being a co-producer, I also play a role in the movie," he said.

Positive feedback

The team of movie Back Benchers is in a jubilant mood as one of the songs of the movie has received a positive response. The song "Yello Yello" was released through Anand Audio recently. It is sung by music director Nakul Abhayankar.

Back Benchers is scheduled for release in a few weeks. "The movie is an out and out entertainment with a college backdrop. It has all elements to entertain the audiences. All the actors of this movie are newcomers. I want movie-goers to encourage them by watching this movie at theaters," said director BR Rajashekhar.

He said Back Benchers would evoke college-day nostalgia among the audiences. He, apart from directing the movie, has bankrolled it and completed its shooting in December. Expressing gratitude to Rajashekhar, the cast said that they are making their debut as actors with this movie. "All of us have basic training in acting. We are aware that not many are watching Kannada movies at theaters. We are trying our best to bring back the audiences by organising innovative promotional programmes for this movie," said actors Ranjan and Jathin Arya.

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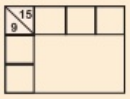
@BangaloreMirror

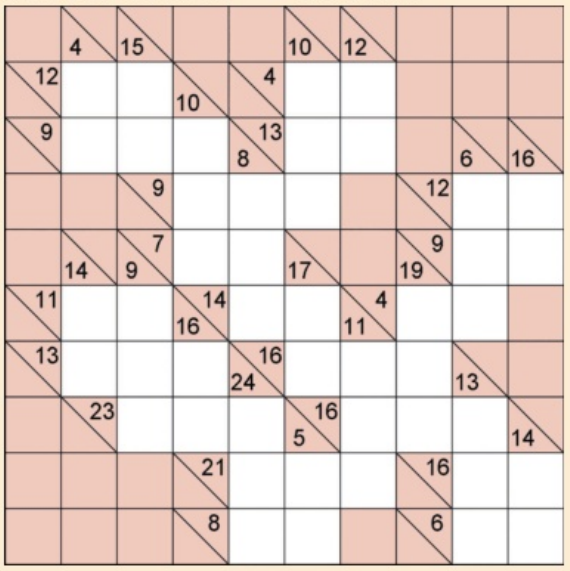
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

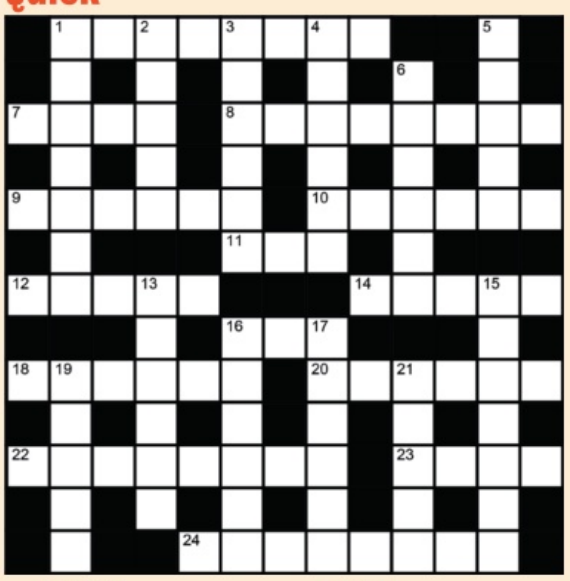


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Pedestrian walkway (8)
7 Playback singer ___ Narayan (4)
8 Unique (8)
9 Fernando of F1 (6)
10 Famous English admiral (6)
11 Louse egg (3)
12 Spoilt kids (5)
13 Silly or annoying people (6)
14 Make into law (5)
16 Taxi (3)
18 Abrogate (6)
20 Out of sight, out __ ___? (2,4)
22 Infirmary (8)
23 Go bankrupt (4)
24 Irritating (8)

DOWN

1 Violinist (7)
2 Repeatedly or frequently (5)
3 Hand from one to another? (4,2)
4 Lessee (6)
5 Muse of poetry (5)
6 Irish pub at Sankey road (6)
13 Silly or annoying people (6)
15 Sly (7)
16 Dress (6)
17 Converted water to steam (6)
19 Decay or eat away (5)
21 Civilian clothes (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS T

ZKC UQMZ GQMOZOIC UCP YLC ZKC UQMZ TLCEBJQBM.

Linemaro

Were you in Boy Scouts? Because you sure have tied my heart in a knot.

Mindchow

You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough

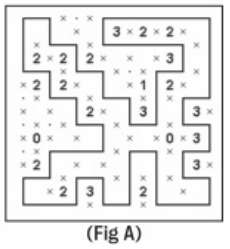
Joke of the day

A melancholic-looking man, he had the appearance of someone who had searched for the leak in life's gas pipe with a lighted candle

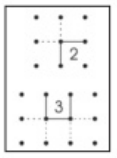
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



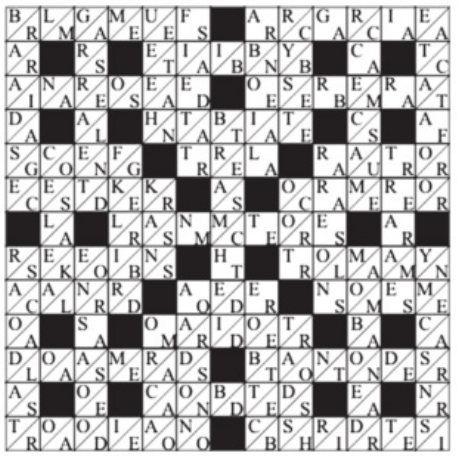
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

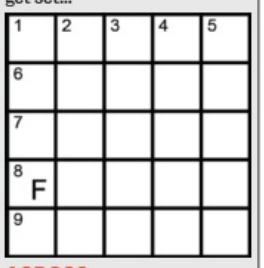
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

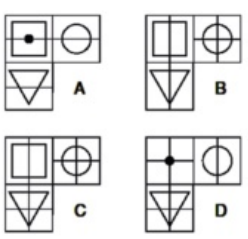
1 To ACC; 6 Or rig; 7 Anole; 8 Afire; 9 At CRT

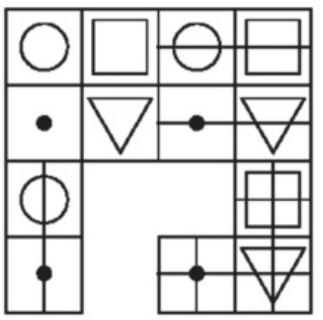
DOWN

1 CF Art; 2 Loire; 3 A Argo; 4 On i CC; 5 Tetra

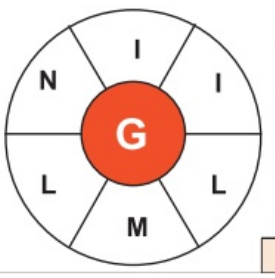
Mensapuzzle

Which is the missing section?





Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

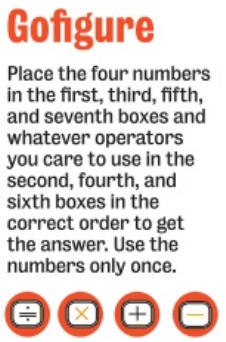
SudokuChallenge

	6		5		1		2	
	7						8	
		1		4		7		
	4	6		9		8	3	
5				8				4
	8	2		6		9	1	
		8		3		1		
	2						7	
	1		2		6		9	

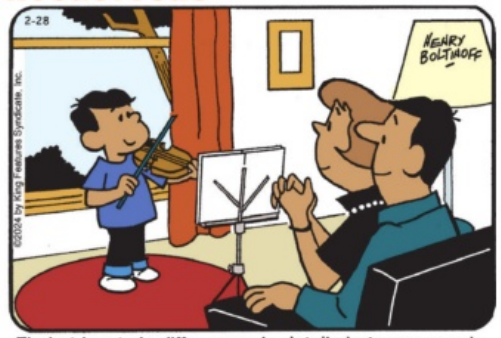
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Music stand is different. 2. Bow is longer. 3. Collar is missing. 4. Necklace is different. 5. Curtain is shorter. 6. Nose is smaller.

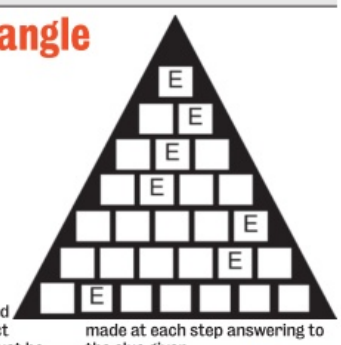
Riddler

When you curtail a word, you remove the last letter and still have a valid word. You will be given clues for the two words, longer word first.

1. Row; level -> Draw; fasten
2. Over -> Put on
3. Take away -> Plunges into water
4. Sorrow -> Scrooge

Alpha triangle

1 Second vowel
2 Concerning
3 For each
4 Gather
5 Surplus
6 Curtains
7 Leaves

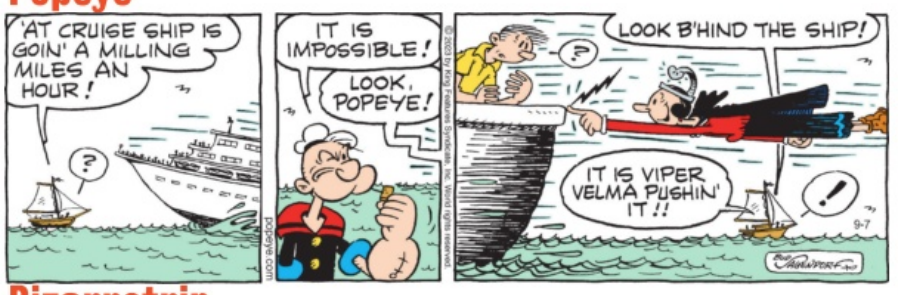


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

DAD, I'M KIND OF IN A TOUGH SPOT WITH RENT.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT, TONY.
I'M SUCH A SCREW-UP.
THINK POSITIVE, SON. YOU NEED A SILVER LINING.
SILVER LINING...
I BROUGHT HEART HERE!
SHE'S GREAT AT DISTRACTING MOM SO I DON'T LOOK LIKE A SCREW-UP IN FRONT OF HER, TOO.
SIGH

Crankshaft

HOW DOES IT FEEL NOT TO BE DOING YOUR COMIC STRIP 'THREE O'CLOCK HIGH' ANYMORE, BATTON?
HONESTLY, IT WAS KIND OF LIKE BEING HIT BY A TRUCK.
SO YOU'RE SEMI-RETIRED.
LISTEN TO HIM!

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, until late afternoon, you may feel a dullness in your nature, which may reflect in your way of working. But with the help of the elder's blessings, you may likely regain your speed. You may pay extra attention to your kid's health. You'll find yourself in a winning position against your enemies and opponents. Investors should be careful while making difficult decisions. Stomach issues may cause you to feel upset.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may be happy at work. By the end of the day, you may likely make some important decisions that will shortly assist you. You may plan for a short trip as well. Your subordinates are likely to be cooperative. You may expect some good news in terms of your sibling's success. You may likely find yourself in winning positions on legal matters as well. Students may be more focused on reaching their targets.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, your communication skills may prove beneficial on the professional front. You may find yourself being more polite with everyone around you, potentially accelerating your project progress. Lovebirds may exchange views, potentially strengthening their relationship foundation.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you are blessed by the moon. A new partnership may give you benefits. Your energy levels are likely to be high. Your hard work and enthusiasm may result in financial gains. Self-respect can shield you from negative influences around you.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may likely meet some old friends or be busy in social gatherings. You may feel more excited today. Innovations may be there in terms of business. You may also experience some unexpected material gains. Children may bring good news regarding their studies. Love birds may enjoy their quality moments.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you are blessed by the moon. Your small investments may convert into big profits. Your working efficiency may now be heightened. You are likely to achieve success with minimal effort. You may receive good news in legal matters. You may exert full control over your opponents and rivals.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you are blessed by the moon. Your minimal effort may give you success. You are likely to receive good profits from your past investments. You reap rewards for your hard work in both your professional and domestic life. Your prestige may now be elevated. You may initiate innovation in the business. Disputes with your spouse may now be resolved

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel better. Situations may be under your control. Your network may assist you on the work front. You may plan for overseas travel. This is an opportune moment to enhance domestic harmony and love life. By utilising your creativity, you may craft artefacts or creative items for your family. You may also consider planning movie nights or outings with friends or family.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may feel fatigued from working too much. It may make you lazy and careless but you are advised to keep patience. If you are planning an adventure tour, you are advised to postpone it for a while. Your past investments may convert into dead stock. Students are advised to work hard. You may experience backaches, nervous system issues, liver-related concerns, and skin problems.

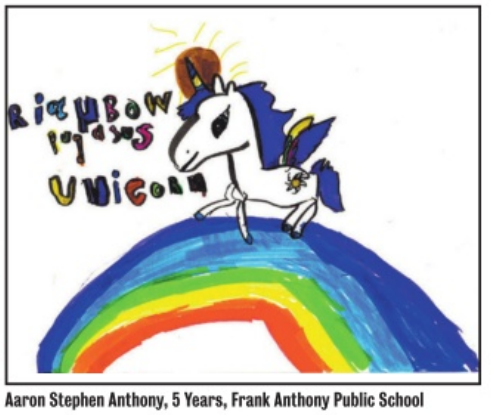
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, your creativity may be heightened, leading you to plan a house renovation. You may purchase items to renovate your house or office, potentially enhancing your social status. Harmony with your spouse is likely, to foster domestic tranquillity. Disputes with friends, coworkers, and partners may be resolved. You may get good news in terms of litigations.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you will be happy. You'll manage to balance your earnings and expenses, thereby boosting your finances. Your network will help you to implement your plans. Your siblings and subordinate staff will be more helpful today. Plan to visit elders or religious places.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may feel dull due to sleeplessness. Scattered focus on your goals may impact your working efficiency. You may plan to visit some religious places. However, in the late evening, you may receive blessings from your elders. You may identify your mistakes and formulate a solid plan for the upcoming day. You are advised to take care of your parent's health.

KIDZONE

B N Prachi, 7 Years, Kendria Vidyalaya



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BULL'S EYE
gill, liming, ling, MILLING

STRIKE OUT

FAST FIVE

C	O	A	C	T
R	I	G	O	R
A	L	O	N	E
F	E	R	I	A
T	R	A	C	T

QUOTE UNCODE
The most positive men are the most credulous.

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
8: looking across, add a horizontal line to the right-hand pair of symbols. looking down, add a vertical line to the bottom pair of symbols.

RIDDLER
1. Tier -> Tie,
2. Done -> Don,
3. Direst -> Dives,
4. Misery -> Miser

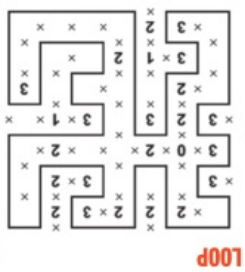
SUDOKU

8	6	9	5	7	1	4	2	3
4	7	5	3	2	9	6	8	1
2	3	1	6	4	8	7	5	9
1	4	6	7	9	2	8	3	5
5	9	7	1	8	3	2	6	4
3	8	2	4	6	5	9	1	7
6	5	8	9	3	7	1	4	2
9	2	3	8	1	4	5	7	6
7	1	4	2	5	6	3	9	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
E, Re, Per, Reap, Spare, Drapes, Departs.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 – 8 + 8 + 4 = 9
Medium
9 + 5 – 7 x 3 = 21
Hard
4 x 7 / 4 x 8 = 56

LOOP



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Volume No 17, Issue No 022 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22411 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

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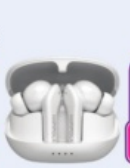

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